



Nebraska Student Vote

Candidate Profiles

JEFF FORTENBERY – 2012

Age: 51

Hometown: Lincoln, NE

Party Affiliation: Republican

Years in Current Office: 7 years

Congressional Committees on which you serve:

Committee on Agriculture; Subcommittee on Department Operations Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry (Chairman)

Committee on Foreign Affairs; Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights (Vice Chair); Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia

Education: BA Economics
Master of Public Policy, Georgetown University

Prior Public Offices Held: Lincoln City Council At-large

Political Heroes: Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan

1. U.S. Presidents have said for several years that we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. What steps would you take to make us less dependent on foreign oil and to achieve more energy efficiency in the U.S.?

America needs a bold, new energy strategy. I have supported several measures to diversity our energy portfolio, such as increasing the use of biofuels and wind. We must increase use of domestic resources in an environmentally responsible way, and fully integrate conservation and renewable sources into our energy strategy.

2. After September 11, 2001 our nation has made public safety from terrorism a high priority. Have we achieved a sustainable level of public safety or do you think more steps are needed to protect public safety into the future?

Enhanced security measures have helped protect us from attack, but serious threats to national security remain. In Congress, I have prioritized maintaining a strong military while encouraging robust diplomacy with other nations, promoting fundamental human rights, and increasing international stability. Additionally, I am co-founder of the Congressional Nuclear Security Caucus.

3. Since our federal debt and annual deficits are a major concern, what are the top three priorities for you on these issues?

Reducing our federal debt and building lasting economic opportunity through small business entrepreneurship and strong local economies; strengthening national security and diplomacy, with a focus on nuclear weapons nonproliferation and protecting our borders; upholding strong family life and culture - the strength of our nation depends on the strength of our families and communities.



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4. Many young people have only a general understanding of the dynamics of politics and elective government. As the greatest democracy in the world, America needs each new generation to step up. What two policies or programs might you pursue to help young people appreciate their freedoms and accept their civic responsibilities?

Public office should be an honorable and high calling. Young people bring much imagination and enthusiasm to the political process. Educational organizations that introduce youth directly to governmental and civic processes are important. My offices feature a vibrant internship program, and I enjoy speaking in numerous classroom settings each year.